

In re Appln. of 09/033,909

Claim 5, line 1, delete "welding", and after "fabric"  
insert --for welding--.

Claim 9, line 1, delete "welding", and after "fabric"  
insert --for welding--.

Claim 10, line 1, delete "welding", and after "fabric"  
insert --for welding--.

Claim 11, line 1, delete "welding", and after "fabric"  
insert --for welding--.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "welding", and after "fabric"  
insert --for welding--.

Please add the following new claims:

13. A fabric for welding according to claim 1 wherein  
said welding portion comprises thermoplastic synthetic fibers that  
flow under hot pressing conditions.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.  
102(b) as being anticipated by Nakayama et al. Nakayama et al.  
are said to disclose a woven fabric comprising warp and weft  
threads wherein at least some of the warp threads are coated with

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a thermoplastic material. The ends of the fabric may be joined together, and the thermoplastic coated fibers may be disposed across the fabric.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The claims have now been amended to recite that the welding portion of the fabric includes a material which melts under hot pressing conditions such that when the fabric is hot pressed to a substrate the fabric welds to the substrate. This is not at all the same as the fabric disclosed in Nakayama et al. Nakayama et al. disclose a woven fabric which is uncoated so as to prevent fraying or tattering of the threads when the fabric is cut, and in which there is no change in such properties as amount of air permeability after cutting. Once the fabric is woven, using a predetermined number of coated threads as the threads of at least one of the warps and wefts, the coated threads are fused to the threads of the other of the warps and wefts by performing a heat setting treatment in which the woven fabric is held at a predetermined temperature for a predetermined period of time.

The present invention, on the other hand, provides a fabric which is to be welded to a substrate. There is no hot pressing until the fabric is to be welded. That is, the fabric *per se* is not subjected to heat until the fabric is actually welded to a substrate. The fabric of Nakayama et al., however, is heated so that the coated threads fuse to other threads of the fabric. The present invention does not provide for coated threads to fuse to other threads of the fabric, but for the fabric to be welded to a substrate.

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Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al. Nakayama et al. are said to disclose a woven fabric comprising warp and weft threads wherein at least some of the warp threads are coated with a thermoplastic material. The ends of the fabric may be joined together. The thermoplastic coated fibers may be disposed across the fabric.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. As noted above, the present claims have been amended to recite that when the fabric is hot pressed to a substrate the fabric welds to the substrate. Nakayama et al. disclose a fabric in which some of the threads are coated, and then heat is applied to fuse the threads together. There is nothing in Nakayama et al. that suggests heat welding the fabric to a substrate, or that, once the threads have been fused together, that the fabric could even be heat welded to a substrate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

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